

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the present application is noted with appreciation, as is the withdrawal of the prior rejections.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain in view of Chen. The rejection is traversed, particularly in view of the attached Rule 131 Declaration of Becky D. Raichur, showing that the present invention was conceived prior to March 9, 1999 (Jain's filing date) and was diligently reduced to practice by a subsequent provisional patent application filing on August 16, 2000. The present application claims priority to that provisional patent application. Accordingly, Jain is not citable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and hence is not a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Being filed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time to March 2, 2005, with the appropriate fee. Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

An earnest attempt has been made to respond to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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